

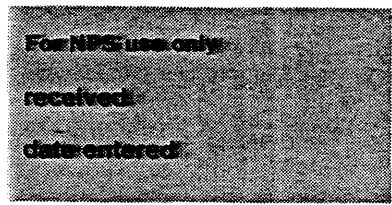
National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Historic Resources of Albuquerque's North Valley

Continuation sheet Individual Properties

Item number

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1. NAME: Robert Dietz Farmhouse
2. LOCATION: 4117 Rio Grande Blvd., N.W.
Albuquerque, New Mexico
4. OWNER: Mrs. Shirley Leslie
4117 Rio Grande Blvd., N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87107

7. DESCRIPTION:

Built as a one-story home in 1914, the Dietz Farmhouse became a grand home in 1928 with the addition of its second story. It is located just north of the community of Los Griegos on Rio Grande Boulevard, the major north-south road along the west side of the valley. The house is a vernacular adaptation of the Prairie style with its central two-story portion flanked by one-story wings. Horizontal banks of 6/1 wood sash windows are set into the yellow stuccoed frame structure. The whole is covered by a low hip roof with generous overhang. The house was sensitively added to by later owners and is in excellent condition with all the period interior fixtures and trim in place.

The house is sited on a N-S axis and has double front doors and sidelights facing east toward Rio Grande Boulevard and the Sandia Mountains. An open curved raised entry porch with decorative iron railing and a hip-roofed canopy frame this entrance. The house's windows are surrounded by wide wood molding and are clustered in rows of 3, 4 and 5 to create an impression of horizontality. The house includes over 100 windows, rare for an southwestern residence. Stucco panels and recently-added decorative wrought iron detailing accent several of the upper window banks. Above these is the wide boxed soffit that extends well beyond the roof line. The roof is multiple hipped and includes two chimneys, one reminiscent of a wide Prairie style chimney. An open hip-roofed porch has been added to the south facade; it includes Doric columns and matches the main structure in proportion.

The interior of the Dietz Farmhouse is organized around a central N-S corridor and includes six bedrooms all with modified Territorial Style door trim, paneled doors with inlaid bevelled mirrors, 6/1 double hung wood windows and trim, and original steam radiators. All the floors in the house are of

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pine, with the exception of a red quarry tile entrance hall and the bathrooms which are finished in white tile.

The property is extensively landscaped with large cottonwood trees, lawns, white slat fences, and flowering fruit trees. A period-styled gazebo has been added to an area in front of the main entrance. To the west, in the rear, are stables and corrals. The stables, like the house, are frame with a low hipped roof. They were built by the Dietz family.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

Long a landmark on Rio Grande Boulevard, the large Dietz Farmhouse is a unique two-story structure in the north valley. It is significant in Albuquerque as the home for many years of the Robert Dietz family, one of the early Anglo farming families in the area, and significant architecturally as a fine example of a rare vernacular interpretation of the Prairie style.

Robert Dietz came to Albuquerque in 1910 seeking a cure for tuberculosis. He was originally from Syracuse, New York where his family owned the Dietz Lantern Company which manufactured railroad warning lanterns. In 1913 he bought over 60 acres of land just north of the old plaza of Los Griegos on either side of Rio Grande Boulevard--then a dirt track. Over 40 acres came from John and Lola Armijo Borradaile and was known as the Borradaile Ranch. Lola Armijo was one of the many children of Ambrosio Armijo, who owned the Los Poblanos Ranch just to the north and probably included the Borradaile property.

The Dietz family grew "everything" as well as starting a herd of dairy cows, according to the youngest son Robert Dietz III who still lives in Albuquerque. The children went to a non-denominational school held in the downtown Jewish synagogue, making the long trip by pony, cart, buggy, and eventually wagon.

The second story was added in 1928 repeating the banks of windows and hipped roof of the original one-story house. The Dietzs continued to live in the house until the 1940's when they sold it to Dale Bellamah, a housing developer. Bellamah later sold the house to Dr. Albert Simms, whose father and uncle lived at Los Poblanos just to the north. Bellamah kept the vacant land and later built the successful Dietz Farms subdivision there. The farmhouse was sold to its present owner

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in 1969; she added the open porch on the south and extended the one-story north wing; both additions are well-designed and in keeping with the proportions and detailing of the 1928 structure. The house and the stable are included in the nomination.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

The house and its stable and corral are located on Block 1, lot 5 of the Dietz Farms Subdivision. It is less than one acre

UTM references: Los Griegos Quad. 13/348050/3889620